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PP RUEHFK  
DE RUEHKO #1393 0890233  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
P 300233Z MAR 07  
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2198  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY  
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RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY  
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INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 0481  
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 3996  
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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - ARAB SUMMIT IN RIYADH - TOKYO

LEAD STORIES: Friday morning's conservative Sankei front-paged the GOJ's decision to extend Japan's sanctions against North Korea, which are to expire in mid-April, by another six months.

¶1. "Arab Leaders Agree to Relaunch Peace Initiative"  
Riyadh correspondent Michio Okamoto of the top-circulation, moderate Yomiuri wrote (3/30): "Arab leaders ended a summit in Riyadh Thursday after adopting the Riyadh Declaration, which calls for relaunching their five-year-old peace initiative proposing normalization of relations with Israel in exchange for the return of all occupied territories. However, given Israel's call to amend how the initiative handles refugees, it is unlikely to be adopted as is. Nonetheless, Israel and Arab nations are likely to resume negotiations.... In a resolution adopted Wednesday night at the summit, Arab leaders also proposed the formation of a working group and called on the US and Russia, as well as the UN and EU, to take part in the peace process. Under the resolution, Egypt and Jordan, both of which have diplomatic relations with Israel, are expected to play a central role in bringing Israel to the negotiating table."

SCHIEFFER